

## United States Senate

June 26, 2014

Azra Hussain  
FAA Program Manager  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Chicago Airports District Office  
2300 E. Devon Ave.  
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear Ms. Hussain:

Virgil I. Grissom Municipal Airport (BFR) located three miles southeast of Bedford, Indiana, is an essential component in the economic stability and development of Lawrence County, where Bedford is located. As businesses look to expand, relocate or build new facilities, the quality of the area's transportation infrastructure is a key element in site selection. Lawrence County is home to more than 55 vital manufacturers including GM Powertrain, and hosts business that support Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center. As Senator from Indiana, I understand how crucial air transportation has become for all companies, and its importance in supporting the economic stability of our cities, towns and rural areas. For this reason, I support the BFR Board of Aviation Commissioners and the City of Bedford in their effort to rehabilitate the main runway at the Virgil I. Grissom Municipal Airport.

Lawrence County's unemployment rate is 7.2%, which is over 26% higher than the state's seasonally adjusted rate of 5.7%. It is vital to this area's economic stability and future growth that the airport's runway be maintained in order to support existing business and attract future investment. In addition, French Lick, Indiana, approximately thirty miles from the airport, is hosting the Senior PGA Championship in May of 2015. This tournament is expected to generate increased private plane and corporate jet traffic to the airport, and it is imperative that the runway be improved to handle this additional traffic safely and efficiently.

Repairing this runway is necessary to meet safety requirements and help maintain the region's air transportation infrastructure. I encourage a favorable review of the BRF Board of Aviation Commissioners' request for funding through the Airport Improvement Program and respectfully request that you grant every consideration consistent with U.S. law and public policy. I would appreciate being informed when a decision about this grant is announced. Questions and announcements can be directed to my office at [Marianne\\_Black@donnelly.senate.gov](mailto:Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov) or by telephone at (317) 226.5555.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator